



# The Feedline

Newsletter of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club, Logansport, IN



## Field Day plans being set

A long-time tradition of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club will continue this year, but in a new location.

CCARC members are planning for Field Day at the QTH of John Boughton, KB9SIR near Georgetown.

CCARC Field Day Coordinator, Todd Ervin, N9PVQ, says John has plenty of room to accommodate the traditional 40 meter "bobtail curtain" antenna and has a RV available to house some of the radios and computers.

### Stations planned.

The initial Field Day plan calls for setting up two HF stations, one for 40 me-

ters (with the proven bobtail curtain) and a second station for 80 and 20 meters, if antennas are available. The second stations will change frequencies depending upon propagation conditions. A third station will cover six and two meters.

### Equipment needed

To make Field Day work, some equipment is needed for the 24 hour event. Needs include reliable HF and VHF transceivers, antenna tuners, and laptop computers to handle the logging chores. Let N9PVQ know if you can help.

### The food's the thing

As always, the high point will be the social gathering at 5 PM Saturday. Rae Ervin, N9YFW, will secure contributions from local food purveyors as in the past, plus accept donations from club members.



Always the fourth weekend of June, this year's dates are June 26th to 27th.

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## Field Day QTH easy to find

This year's CCARC Field Day site is just a few miles West of Logansport on US24 at the intersection of CR 400 West.

KB9SIR's QTH is right on the NE corner.



### Special points of interest:

- To get a weather alert first, have your radio set to the 147.180 repeater!
- Remember, if you check out of a formal net, advise the NCS so he knows you've left. Don't just "disappear."
- Nets still meet Thursdays at 8.

# Weather net needs good operators

When severe weather threatens local hams are picking up their hand-holds or turning on base stations to monitor the "18." Or are they?

The recent severe weather drill produced too few check-ins into the weather net.

Some hams believe that practice isn't needed, but any skill is honed by practice, and this certainly includes practicing net procedures. Those who check in only during the "real thing"

are often deficient in net operations. Net operations are different from "normal" repeater usage.

The Net Control Station (NCS) directs all communications. No station should ever call another without first getting the NCS's direction to do so during any net.

Although there are



Providing efficient communications during severe weather is one of the club's greatest contributions to the community.

some stations who typically run weather nets, any club member could do so. The important thing is to get the net going during a weather emergency. NCS duties can be shared. A NCS can always turn the net over to someone else, if needed.

# Why do hams say "break?"

The next time you hear someone say "break" on a repeater, he's actually using a telegraph practice. American telegraph networks utilized a normally closed circuit. In other words, the key, battery, and relay sounder were wired in series with the telegraph circuit. In order to receive traffic, the receiving operator had to "close the circuit" or short his key.

The word "break" was first used by telegraphers years ago to mean opening the circuit between their keys and the sounder.

The operator on the other end of the circuit could then open and close the circuit in conformance with the dots and dashes of Morse code, thereby actuating the sounders at

each end, permitting the receiving operator to copy the incoming traffic.

When the receiving operator missed a word or group, he simply

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# "23" repeater may be re-activated

The 145.230 MHz repeater, silenced because of equipment problems, may see life again soon.

At a recent meeting of the CCARC, members decided to authorize funds to replace the ailing transmitter with one of better quality from the used commercial market.

Club members also floated the

idea of dedicating this repeater to special events, leaving the 147.180 MHz repeater open to normal usage.

For example, communications during parades, or similar events, could be dedicated to the "23."

Usage of this repeater might be dedicated in the future to the new Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP).



The local coverage of the 145.230 MHz repeater would be ideal for parade communications.

## Web site gets special look, added links

The Cass County Amateur Radio Club web site might be considered "one stop shopping" for ham radio

information. The site is designed by club member and graphic arts specialist, Kyle Shepherd, KB9WZF.

meetings can be found as well as search engines such as Google and QRZ. Links to other Indiana ham clubs can also be accessed from a linked page that shows a map of Indiana.

Haven't yet joined the CCARC Re-mailer? Click the button at the top to take you to the sign up screen.

If you haven't already done so, add this URL to your "favorites" menu: [www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc/](http://www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc/).

### The Cass County Amateur Radio Club Homepage



By clicking any of the 14 "buttons" on the radio graphic, site visitors can be taken immediately to web sites of amateur interest, like ARRL and Newline. Minutes of club

## Hamvention numbers forces cuts

Are you still waiting for your Hamvention 2004 brochure? If so, you'll have a long wait.

Faced with declining attendance numbers in recent years, and therefore declining revenues, Hamvention staff was forced to cut costs, one of the biggest of which was the mass mailing of brochures. Small ads in ham magazines replaced full page ads.

"We're depending upon the ham's memory, word of mouth, and the internet," says Hamvention Chair, Gary DesCombes, N8EMO. "Our web page [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) has been remarkably successful."

DesCombes urges hams to use the web site to purchase tickets, make reservations, or just to ask questions. He adds that more of the Hamvention

jobs are being done by volunteers.

The dates are May 14, 15 and 16 at the Hara Arena, as in the past.

**The Hamvention web site [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) is the easiest way to purchase tickets prior to the event.**

## Why do hams say "break?" (cont.)

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opened the shorting lever on his key. This "break" would result in the circuit going quiet, thereby indicating to the transmitting operator that something was amiss.

Likewise, other operators on the line could interrupt communications by breaking the circuit should they have

higher priority traffic. Now you know why all those older telegraph keys have a shorting switch on them. Contrary to popular belief, it's not there to tune the transmitter but rather to close a landline telegraph circuit when receiving traffic, or when the keys were not in use.

(from WorldRadio)



Saying "break" is actually an adaptation of an old telegraph term.

## Cass Co. Amateur Radio Club

The mailing address is:  
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Phone: 574 753 3635,  
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The Cass County Amateur Radio Club is an Indiana Not For Profit Corporation in continuous existence since 1953.

We're on the web!  
[www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc](http://www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc)

## Bits, bytes and beyond

- It's been observed that when the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning, it's heard on the 147.180 MHz repeater at least ten minutes before the warning sirens are activated.
- It's never too late to monitor the "1-8!"
- The worldwide downlink to tune amateur radio aboard the International Space Stations is 145.800 MHz FM.
- Solving your antenna restrictions the hard way: When Jerry Kleker, W7QX, moved to Cottonwood, AZ, the town would not let him put up any antennas. So he ran for city council, got elected, fired the planning director, revised the antenna ordinance and now has his tower, and antennas permitted.
- The FCC is seeking comments on three different plans to restructure the Amateur Radio Service. All call for modifications of the entry level license and have three license classes. Another petition asks for Morse Code changes.
- How reliable are your radio batteries? A survey by C.A.P. Communications revealed that 71% of the NiCads sold had failed within 3 years, whereas the failure rate of NiMH batteries was at 4%.

### Repeaters

Primary repeaters operate on 147.180 MHz, and 443.650 MHz. The VHF repeater is located at the Chase Park water tower with an open receiver. Additional receive sites are located at the Cass County EMA building and in Delphi. These are accessed with a 77 HZ sub-audible tone. The UHF repeater is located at the EMA building. The VHF transmitter also transmits a 77 Hz tone. Setting your receiver to *decode* will reduce unwanted signals. A second VHF repeater located at the Logansport Municipal Airport operates on 145.230 MHz. Autopatch is available on the main VHF repeater to members. Repeaters may be out of service from time to time for repairs or upgrades. The club station is W9VMW.

### CCARC Meetings

Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Cass County Emergency Management Agency building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. Dues are \$15.00 per year. Immediate family members may join for an additional \$5.00.

### Amateur License Tests

Test sessions for all classes of amateur radio licenses are offered the first Friday of each odd month at 6:30 PM at the Cass County EMA building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. Pre-registration is not necessary.

### Cass County Amateur Radio Club Officers

**President:** Don Hyman, K9EQT

**Vice President:** Todd Ervin, N9PVQ

**Secretary:** Tom Murray, KB9WSL

**Treasurer:** Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

**Directors At Large:**

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**Testing Coordinator:**

Don Hyman, K9EQT

**Emergency Coordinator:**

Todd Ervin, N9PVQ

The **FEEDLINE** Editor & Publisher:

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Phil Snider, W9LVY

**Education & History:**

Don Hyman, K9EQT

**Mailing Facilitator:**

Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

**Computer Programmer:**

Mike Krosoft